

Message Text

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11
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CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 USSS-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE: JSEYMOUR:MDJ

APPROVED BY M: LEAGLEBURGER

M/CT:KARCASIAN

S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YO, US

SUBJECT: HIJACKING BY CROATIAN TERRORISTS

1. FOUR UNIDENTIFIED CROATIAN NATIONALISTS HIJACKED A TWA BOEING 727 ON A NEW YORK TO CHICAGO FLIGHT FRIDAY EVENING AND DIVERTED IT TO GANDER VIA MONTREAL. THEY HAVE DEMANDED PUBLICATION IN MAJOR US NEWSPAPERS OF AN EIGHT-PAGE MANIFESTO AND DISTRIBUTION OF LEAFLETS ADVOCATING CROATIAN INDEPENDENCE AND CRITICIZING US SUPPORT OF YUGOSLAVIA. THE AIRLINER IS EN ROUTE TO KEFLAVIK ICELAND (ETA 1215Z) WITH A 707 ESCORT. ABOUT 57 PASSENGERS AND SEVEN CREWMEN REMAIN ABOARD. A BOMB PLANTED IN A GRAND CENTRAL STATION LOCKER WITH A NOTE FROM THE GROUP EXPLODED AS NEW YORK POLICE ATTEMPTED TO DEFUSE IT, KILLING ONE POLICEMAN. THE GROUP IDENTIFIES ITSELF AS FIGHTERS FOR FREE CROATIA OF THE
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CROATIAN LIBERATION FORCES. BOTH DESIGNATIONS PREVIOUSLY

UNKNOWN.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS INITIATED STEPS TO INCREASE SECURITY OF YUGOSLAV CHANCERY AND RESIDENCES OF AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE, AS WELL AS ALL YUGOSLAV CONSULATES IN U.S. YUGOSLAV EMB. HAS BEEN INFORMED AND IS REPORTING TO BELGRADE.

3. THE MANIFESTO WILL BE PUBLISHED IN SATURDAY'S NEW YORK

TIMES, PER DECISION BY TWA AND THE TIMES. LEAFLETS MAY BE DROPPED OVER CHICAGO AND NEW YORK. THE DEPARTMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS POLICY OF NOT YIELDING TO TERRORIST DEMANDS, RECOMMENDED AGAINST PUBLICATION. DECISION WAS TWA'S WITH WHICH DEPARTMENT DOES NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF. WE REGARD LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO HAVE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALING WITH TERRORISTS. WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. KISSINGER

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